



US 20050039116A1

(19) **United States**(12) **Patent Application Publication** (10) **Pub. No.: US 2005/0039116 A1**
(43) **Pub. Date: Feb. 17, 2005**(54) **COLLABORATIVE EDITING WITH
AUTOMATIC LAYOUT****Publication Classification**(75) Inventor: **David Geoffrey Slack-Smith, Marsfield
(AU)**(51) **Int. Cl.⁷ G06F 7/00**(52) **U.S. Cl. 715/511**

Correspondence Address:

**FITZPATRICK CELLA HARPER & SCINTO
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK, NY 10112 (US)**(57) **ABSTRACT**

A method (100), apparatus (200) and computer program product for editing an electronic document is disclosed. Editorial modifications that a first collaborator has made to the document are published. Receipt of the modifications is acknowledged by one or more other collaborators and the published modifications are merged with any local modifications to produce a merged version of said modifications. The merged modifications are applied to the document to produce an edited version of the document including the editorial modifications. The edited version containing data incorporated therein indicating acknowledgment of the editorial modifications by one or more of the collaborators.

(73) Assignee: **Canon Kabushiki Kaisha, Tokyo (JP)**(21) Appl. No.: **10/901,149**(22) Filed: **Jul. 29, 2004**(30) **Foreign Application Priority Data**

Jul. 31, 2003 (AU) 2003903994

